ing the use of such systems with latest digital technology in the Rural/Remote areas.

Cellular phone system in the country

3415. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the advantages of Cellular phone system to the overall telecom. scenario;

(b) whether it is a fact that there would be no advantage to phone subscribers in small town and rural areas; and

(c) if so, whether there is re-thinking on the decision to introduce cellular phones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Advantages of Cellular phone system are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir, the service will be useful in small towns also.

(c) No Sir, at present there is no rethinking on the decision to introduce cellular phones.

Statement

1. Subscribers of this service can communicate even when they are moving in a vehicle or located anywhere in the service area.

2. The system provides a high reliability since a landbased subscriber cable network is not necessary.

3. Executives and businessmen can keep in touch with their offices while they are located anywhere in the service area or while on move in their vehicles.

4. Since the system provides for mobile communications, it will be very useful for public utility services such as fire brigade, ambulances etc. The service will also be useful at building construction sites and other places where physical wired network is not readily available.

STD facilities in Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh

3416. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of centres in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh which are having STD facilities;

(b) what is the number of cut of them which were provided in the year 1992-93; and

(c) what are the places that will be provided with STD facilities during the year 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Five stations have been provided STD facility in Cuddapah district so far.

(b) Two stations have been provided STD facility till 15th March, 1993 during the year 1992-93. One more station is planned to be provided STD service by 31-3-1993.

(c) Badvel, Pulivendla, Rayachoti and Mydukur are planned to be provided STD service during 1993-94.

Reforms in Indian Telephone Industries

3417. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has submitted any report suggesting reform in our Indian Telephone Industries and the Hindustan Cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps that have been taken by Government to produce more Telecommunication equipment to meet our requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect of both ITI and HCL the report has suggested that the Companies